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## ESA Dispute Slows Galileo

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A continuing stalemate among European Space Agency (ESA) members is delaying progress on the Galileo navigation satellite system that the organization is building in partnership with the European Union.

An agreement between the European Commission (EC) and ESA remains to be completed establishing a Galileo Joint Undertaking (JU) and staffing the new organization that will oversee development of the Galileo system. At issue is a dispute among Italy, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom regarding their shares in the project.

A JU director has not been selected and a Galileo Industry Day originally planned for early October has been rescheduled for early January 2003, by which time the JU is hoped to be operational. The EC and ESA attributed the delay to "overwhelming interest" in the event and a desire to render it "as comprehensive and informative as possible."